

AD-A164 396 A HIGH-ORDER LAMINATED PLATE THEORY WITH IMPROVED  
IN-PLANE RESPONSES(U) CALIFORNIA UNIV SAN DIEGO LA  
JOLLA DEPT OF APPLIED MECHANICS R. A TOLEDANO ET AL.  
UNCLASSIFIED DEC 85 N00014-84-C-0469

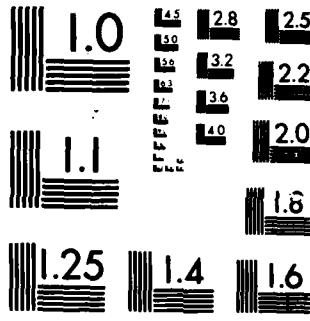
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TECHNICAL REPORT

A HIGH-ORDER LAMINATED PLATE THEORY  
WITH IMPROVED IN-PLANE RESPONSES<sup>1)</sup>

by

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DECEMBER 1985

Prepared for

Office of Naval Research  
800 North Quincy Street  
Arlington, Virginia 22217



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| REPORT DOCUMENTATION PAGE  |   | READ INSTRUCTIONS<br>BEFORE COMPLETING FORM |
|--|---|---|
| 1. REPORT NUMBER   | 2. GOVT ACCESSION NO.                                       | RECIPIENT'S CATALOG NUMBER                  |
| AIA-1643   |   | 96  |
| 4. TITLE (and Subtitle)  | 5. TYPE OF REPORT & PERIOD COVERED                          |   |
| A High-Order Laminated Plate Theory with Improved In-Plane Responses 1)  | Technical Report<br>July 1984 to December 1985              |   |
| 7. AUTHOR(s)   | 8. CONTRACT OR GRANT NUMBER(s)                              |   |
| A. Toledano and H. Murakami  | N00014-84-0468  |   |
| 9. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME AND ADDRESS  | 10. PROGRAM ELEMENT, PROJECT, TASK AREA & WORK UNIT NUMBERS |   |
| Dept of Applied Mechanics & Engineering Sciences<br>University of California, San Diego<br>La Jolla, California 92093  |   |   |
| 11. CONTROLLING OFFICE NAME AND ADDRESS  | 12. REPORT DATE   |   |
| Mechanics Division, Solid Mechanics Program<br>Office of Naval Research<br>800 N. Quincy St., Arlington, VA 22217  | December 1985   |   |
| 14. MONITORING AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS (if different from Controlling Office)  | 13. NUMBER OF PAGES   |   |
|  | 41  |   |
| 16. DISTRIBUTION STATEMENT (of this Report)  | 15. SECURITY CLASS. (of this report)                        |   |
| Approved for public release; distribution unlimited.   |   |   |
| 17. DISTRIBUTION STATEMENT (of the abstract entered in Block 20, if different from Report)   |   |   |
| 18. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES  |   |   |
| 19. KEY WORDS (Continue on reverse side if necessary and identify by block number)   |   |   |
| Laminated Composite plate, shear deformable plate theory   |   |   |
| 20. ABSTRACT (Continue on reverse side if necessary and identify by block number)  |   |   |
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S/N 6102-LF-014-6601

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF THIS PAGE (When Data Entered)

## ABSTRACT

In order to improve the accuracy of the in-plane responses of the shear deformable laminated composite plate theories, a new high-order laminated plate theory was developed based upon Reissner's new mixed Variational Principle [9]. To this end, a zig-zag shaped  $C^0$  function and Legendre polynomials were introduced into the approximate in-plane displacement distributions across the plate thickness. The accuracy of the present theory was examined by applying it to the cylindrical bending problem of laminated plates which had been solved exactly by Pagano [1]. A comparison with the exact solutions obtained for several symmetric and asymmetric cross-ply laminates indicates that the present theory accurately estimates in-plane responses, even for small span-to-thickness ratios.

*Reissner-Lam theory; composite plate; shear deformation;*  
*mixed variational principle*

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

The increasing use of composite materials as thick laminates, in aerospace engineering and in automotive engineering, has clearly demonstrated the need for the development of new theories to efficiently and accurately predict the behavior of such structural components. The intrinsic heterogeneity and anisotropy of these composite structures as evidenced in the stacking of several fibrous layers and in the high discontinuity in material properties across the interfaces, make the classical theories of plates and shells inadequate.

The inspiration and guidelines for the subsequent attempts have stemmed from Pagano's works [1,2,3] where the exact elasticity solutions for the problems of cylindrical bending and simply supported rectangular plates were given. Pagano showed the importance of incorporating the effect of transverse shear deformations in order to accurately estimate the plate lateral deflection and the need to improve upon the thickness variation of the in-plane displacements, which are assumed to be  $C^1$  linear functions in both classical plate theory (CPT) and Reissner-Mindlin plate theory (FSD).

The first attempt to develop a general linear laminated plate theory is credited to Yang, Norris and Stavsky [4]. Their theory is an extension of the Reissner-Mindlin homogeneous plate theory as applied to an arbitrary number of bonded anisotropic layers. Whitney and Pagano [5] extended Yang, Norris and Stavsky's work. An important conclusion drawn from their analysis, which was also emphasized later by Whitney [6], is that the inaccuracies of the classical plate theory at low span-to-thickness ratios for determining in-plane stresses are not alleviated by the introduction of shear deformations. Whitney [6] obtained in-plane displacements by integrating the transverse shear strains deduced in [5]. This resulted in a higher order approximation which accurately predicted in-plane strains, but the resulting modified stresses did not necessarily satisfy the original plate equilibrium equations.

Since then, other high-order laminated plate theories have been proposed that account for transverse shear strains. Of these, the Lo, Christensen and Wu [7] and the Reddy [8] high-order models have served as the foundation for the present theory. In their paper [7], Lo, Christensen and Wu used appropriate higher order terms in the power series expansions of the assumed displacement

field which was proposed by Hildebrand, Reissner and Thomas [8]. On the other hand, Reddy [9] imposed the condition of vanishing transverse shear strains on the top and bottom surfaces of the plate. However, this theory does not satisfy the continuity condition of transverse shear stresses at the interfaces.

The objective of the present paper is to improve the approximation of in-plane variables in laminated plate theories. In-plane displacements and bending and stretching stresses are considered primary quantities in any approximate laminated plate analysis: transverse stresses are only of secondary importance since they are an order of magnitude smaller than the primary bending and stretching stresses. By using a new mixed variational principle proposed by Reissner [10], the present theory is a high-order model which improves upon existing theories by including in the assumed in-plane displacement variations across the plate thickness: 1) a zig-zag shaped  $C^0$  function as detailed by Murakami [11]; and, 2) Legendre polynomials. The advantage of using Reissner's new mixed variational principle is that it automatically yields the appropriate shear correction factors for the transverse shear constitutive equations. Another attractive feature of the proposed theory is that the number of equations to be solved is not increased as the number of layers becomes larger and larger. A comparison of the proposed theory with Pagano's exact elasticity solution for symmetric and asymmetric laminated plates in cylindrical bending, shows that in-plane displacements and stresses are accurately predicted by the inclusion of the zig-zag shaped function and the Legendre Polynomials.

## 2. FORMULATION

Consider an  $N$ -layer laminated composite plate, shown in Fig. 1, with principal axes coinciding with a Cartesian coordinate system  $(x_1, x_2, x_3)$ , such that the  $x_3$ -axis is perpendicular to the plane defined by  $x_1$  and  $x_2$ . The following notation:  $(\cdot)^{(k)}$ ,  $k = 1, 2, \dots, N$  will designate quantities associated with the  $k^{\text{th}}$ -layer. The thickness of each layer is  $n^{(k)}h$ , where  $h$  is the total thickness of the plate. The volume fractions  $n^{(k)}$  satisfy the relation

$$\sum_{k=1}^N n^{(k)} = 1 \quad (1)$$

Unless otherwise specified, the usual cartesian indicial notation is employed where latin and greek indices range from 1 to 3 and 1 to 2, respectively. Repeated indices imply the summation convention and  $(\cdot)_i$  is used to denote partial differentiation with respect to  $x_i$ .

With the help of the foregoing notation, the governing equations for the displacement vector  $u_i^{(k)}$  and stress tensor  $\sigma_{ij}^{(k)}$  associated with the  $k^{\text{th}}$ -layer are:

### a) Equilibrium Equations

$$\sigma_j^{(k)} + f_i^{(k)} = 0 \quad ; \quad \sigma_{ij}^{(k)} = \sigma_{ji}^{(k)} \quad (2)$$

where  $f_i$  are the body forces;

### b) Constitutive Equations For Orthotropic Layers

$$\begin{bmatrix} \sigma_{11} \\ \sigma_{22} \\ \sigma_{12} \end{bmatrix}^{(k)} = \begin{bmatrix} \tilde{C}_{11} & \tilde{C}_{12} & 0 \\ \tilde{C}_{12} & \tilde{C}_{22} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \tilde{C}_{66} \end{bmatrix}^{(k)} \begin{bmatrix} e_{11} \\ e_{22} \\ 2e_{12} \end{bmatrix}^{(k)} + \begin{bmatrix} C_{13}/C_{33} \\ C_{23}/C_{33} \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}^{(k)} \sigma_{33}^{(k)} \quad (3a)$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} e_{33} \\ 2e_{23} \\ 2e_{31} \end{bmatrix}^{(k)} = - \begin{bmatrix} C_{13}/C_{33} & C_{23}/C_{33} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}^{(k)} \begin{bmatrix} e_{11} \\ e_{22} \\ 2e_{12} \end{bmatrix}^{(k)} + \begin{bmatrix} 1/C_{33} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1/C_{44} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1/C_{55} \end{bmatrix}^{(k)} \begin{bmatrix} \sigma_{33} \\ \sigma_{23} \\ \sigma_{31} \end{bmatrix}^{(k)} \quad (3b)$$

where  $C_{ij}$  are the elastic constants and  $\tilde{C}_{ij}$  ( $i, j = 1, 2, 6$ ) represent the reduced stiffnesses introduced by Whitney and Pagano [5];

c) Strain-Displacement Relations

$$e_{ij}^{(k)} = \frac{1}{2} (u_{i,j}^{(k)} + u_{j,i}^{(k)}) ; \quad (4)$$

d) Interface Continuity Conditions

$$u_i^{(k)} = u_i^{(k+1)} , \sigma_{3i}^{(k)} = \sigma_{3i}^{(k+1)} ; k = 1, 2, \dots, N-1 ; \quad (5)$$

e) Upper and Lower Surface Stress Conditions

$$\sigma_{3i}^{(1)} = T_i^+ \text{ on } x_3 = \frac{h}{2} \quad (6a)$$

$$\sigma_{3i}^{(N)} = T_i^- \text{ on } x_3 = -\frac{h}{2} . \quad (6b)$$

The objective in developing a new laminated plate theory is twofold: first, to improve the assumed variation of in-plane displacements through the thickness of the plate and second, to include the effect of transverse shear deformation. In order to carry out this task, Reissner's new mixed variational principle [10] was applied to the  $N$ -layer composite plate whose middle surface occupies a domain  $D$  in the  $x_1, x_2$ -plane:

$$\begin{aligned} & \iint_D \left[ \sum_k \int_{A^{(k)}} \left\{ \delta e_{ij}^{(k)} \sigma_{ij}^{(k)} + [u_{\alpha,i}^{(k)} + u_{3,\alpha}^{(k)} - 2e_{3\alpha}^{(k)} (\dots)] \delta \tau_{3\alpha}^{(k)} + [u_{3,3}^{(k)} - e_{33}^{(k)} (\dots)] \delta \tau_{33}^{(k)} \right\} dx_3 \right] dx_1 dx_2 \\ & - \iint_D \left[ \sum_k \int_{A^{(k)}} \delta u_i^{(k)} f_i^{(k)} dx_3 \right] dx_1 dx_2 + \int_{\partial D_T} \left[ \sum_k \int_{A^{(k)}} \delta u_i^{(k)} T_i ds \right] \\ & + \iint_D \left[ \delta u_i^{(1)} (x_1, x_2, \frac{h}{2}) T_i^+ - \delta u_i^{(N)} (x_1, x_2, -\frac{h}{2}) T_i^- \right] dx_1 dx_2 \end{aligned} \quad (7)$$

where  $\partial D_T$  denotes the boundary of  $D$  with outward normal  $\nu_\alpha$  on which tractions  $T_i$  are specified and  $A^{(k)}$  represents the  $x_3$ -domain occupied by the  $k^{\text{th}}$ -layer. Also  $e_{33}(\dots)$  implies the appropriate right-hand side of (3b). Due to the nature of Reissner's mixed variational principle, Eqs. (3a) are taken to be the definitions of  $\sigma_{\alpha\beta}^{(k)}$  used in connection with (7).

### 3. TRIAL DISPLACEMENT FIELD, TRANSVERSE AND NORMAL STRESSES

The high-order laminated plate theory which takes into account the effect of transverse shear strains, is obtained by including the Legendre polynomials of order  $n = 1, 2, 3$  with respect to the  $x_3$ -coordinate to a zig-zag in-plane displacement variation of amplitude  $S_i(x_1, x_2)$  across the plate thickness.

The appropriate trial functions used in connection with Reissner's mixed variational principle Eq. (7) are taken to be:

#### a) Trial Displacement Field

$$u_i^{(k)}(x_1, x_2, x_3) = U_i(x_1, x_2) + \left(\frac{h}{2}\right)\Psi_i(x_1, x_2)P_1(\zeta) + S_i(x_1, x_2)(-1)^k \frac{2}{n^{(k)}h} x_3^{(k)} \\ + \left(\frac{h}{2}\right)^2 \xi_i(x_1, x_2)P_2(\zeta) + \left(\frac{h}{2}\right)^3 \phi_i(x_1, x_2)P_3(\zeta) \quad (8)$$

where  $\zeta \equiv \frac{2x_3}{h}$  and  $P_n(\zeta)$  are the Legendre Polynomials of order  $n$ . It is also understood that  $\phi_3 \equiv 0$ .

$x_3^{(k)}$  is a local  $x_3$ -coordinate system with its origin at the center  $x_{30}^{(k)}$  of the  $k^{\text{th}}$ -layer, i.e.

$$x_3^{(k)} \equiv x_3 - x_{30}^{(k)} \quad (9)$$

Eq. (8) may be regarded as a superposition of a zig-zag function and the cubic variation as proposed by Lo, Christensen and Wu [7], with the exception that here Legendre polynomials are used instead of single powers in  $x_3$ ;

#### b) Trial Transverse and Normal Stresses

$$\tau_{12}^{(k)}(x_1, x_2, x_3) = Q_a^{(k)}(x_1, x_2)F_1(z) + R_a^{(k)}(x_1, x_2)F_2(z) + J_a^{(k)}(x_1, x_2)F_3(z) \\ + [T_a^{(k-1)}(x_1, x_2) + T_a^{(k)}(x_1, x_2)]F_4(z) + [T_a^{(k-1)}(x_1, x_2) - T_a^{(k)}(x_1, x_2)]F_5(z) ; \quad (10a)$$

$$\tau_{33}^{(k)}(x_1, x_2, x_3) = Q_3^{(k)}(x_1, x_2)F_1(z) + R_3^{(k)}(x_1, x_2)F_6(z) + J_3^{(k)}(x_1, x_2)F_3(z) + I_3^{(k)}(x_1, x_2)F_7(z) \\ + [T_3^{(k-1)}(x_1, x_2) + T_3^{(k)}(x_1, x_2)]F_4(z) + [T_3^{(k-1)}(x_1, x_2) - T_3^{(k)}(x_1, x_2)]F_8(z) \quad (10b)$$

where

$$F_1(z) = \frac{5}{n^{(k)}h} \left\{ 21z^4 - \frac{15}{2} z^2 + \frac{9}{16} \right\}, \quad F_2(z) = \frac{-30}{(n^{(k)}h)^2} (4z^3 - z)$$

$$F_3(z) = \frac{-105}{(n^{(k)}h)^3} (20z^4 - 6z^2 + \frac{1}{4}) , F_4(z) = 35z^4 - \frac{15}{2}z^2 + \frac{3}{16} \quad (11)$$

$$F_5(z) = 10z^3 - \frac{3}{2}z , F_6(z) = \frac{105}{(n^{(k)}h)^2} (36z^5 - 14z^3 + \frac{5}{4}z)$$

$$F_7(z) = \frac{-315}{(n^{(k)}h)^4} (112z^5 - 40z^3 + 3z) , F_8(z) = 126z^5 - 35z^3 + \frac{15}{8}z$$

$$\text{and } z \equiv \frac{x_3^{(k)}}{n^{(k)}h} , -\frac{1}{2} \leq z \leq \frac{1}{2}$$

$$\text{Also, } (Q_i^{(k)}, R_i^{(k)}, J_i^{(k)}) \equiv \int_{A^{(k)}} (1, x_3^{(k)}, x_3^{(k)2}) \tau_{33}^{(k)} dx_3 \quad (12a)$$

$$I_3^{(k)} \equiv \int_{A^{(k)}} x_3^{(k)3} \tau_{33}^{(k)} dx_3 \quad (12b)$$

In (10)  $T_i^{(k-1)}$  and  $T_i^{(k)}$  are the values of  $\tau_{33}$  at the top and bottom surfaces of the  $k^{\text{th}}$  layer respectively. From (6)

$$T_i^{(0)} = T_i^+ \text{ and } T_i^{(N)} = T_i^- . \quad (13)$$

The degree of the polynomials  $F_i(z)$ ,  $i=1-8$ , appearing in (10a,b) is consistent with the order of truncation in the assumed expansions (8) for the displacement  $u_i^{(k)}$ .

#### 4. LAMINATED PLATE EQUATIONS

Substituting (8) and (10) into (7), using Gauss' Theorem and the orthogonality property of the Legendre polynomials one obtains:

a) Equilibrium Equations:

$$N_{\alpha i, \alpha} + T_i^+ - T_i^- + F_i^N = 0 \quad (14a)$$

$$M_{\alpha i, \alpha} - N_{3i} + \frac{h}{2} (T_i^+ + T_i^-) + F_i^M = 0 \quad (14b)$$

$$Z_{\alpha i, \alpha} - K_{3i} - (T_i^+ - (-1)^N T_i^-) + F_i^Z = 0 \quad (14c)$$

$$L_{\alpha i, \alpha} - 3M_{3i} + \frac{h^2}{4} (T_i^+ - T_i^-) + F_i^L = 0 \quad (14d)$$

$$P_{\beta \alpha, \beta} - (5L_{3i} + \frac{h^2}{4} N_{3i}) + \frac{h^3}{8} (T_a^+ + T_a^-) + F_a^P = 0 \quad (14e)$$

where

$$\begin{bmatrix} N_{\alpha \beta}, M_{\alpha \beta}, Z_{\alpha \beta}, L_{\alpha \beta}, P_{\alpha \beta} \\ F_i^N, F_i^M, F_i^Z, F_i^L, F_i^P \end{bmatrix} \equiv \sum_{k=1}^N \int_{A^{(k)}} \left[ 1, \frac{h}{2} P_1(\zeta), (-1)^k \frac{2x_3^{(k)}}{n^{(k)} h}, (\frac{h}{2})^2 P_2(\zeta), (\frac{h}{2})^3 P_3(\zeta) \right] \left[ \sigma_{\alpha \beta}^{(k)} \right] dx_3 \quad (15a,b)$$

$$(N_{3i}, M_{3i}, K_{3i}, Z_{3i}, L_{3i}) \equiv \sum_{k=1}^N \int_{A^{(k)}} \left[ 1, \frac{h}{2} P_1(\zeta), (-1)^k \frac{2}{n^{(k)} h}, (-1)^k \frac{2}{n^{(k)} h} x_3^{(k)}, (\frac{h}{2})^2 P_2(\zeta) \right] \tau_{3i}^{(k)} dx_3 ; \quad (15c)$$

b) Constitutive Equations:

- For Transverse Stresses

$$\begin{aligned} Q_a^{(k)} - \frac{8 J_a^{(k)}}{(n^{(k)} h)^2} + \frac{n^{(k)} h}{30} \left( T_a^{(k-1)} + T_a^{(k)} \right) = & \frac{2}{5} h n^{(k)} \tilde{C}_a^{(k)} \left[ U_{3,a} + \Psi_a + S_a (-1)^k \right. \\ & \left. \frac{2}{n^{(k)} h} + h n_o^{(k)} (\Psi_{3,a} + 3\xi_a) + \frac{h^2}{2} (3 n_o^{(k)2} - \frac{1}{4}) \xi_{3,a} + \frac{3h^2}{2} (5 n_o^{(k)2} - \frac{1}{4}) \phi_a \right] \end{aligned} \quad (16a)$$

$$\frac{1}{h} R_a^{(k)} - \frac{n^{(k)2}h}{40} (T_a^{(k-1)} - T_a^{(k)}) = \frac{7h^2}{120} n^{(k)3} \bar{C}_a^{(k)} \left[ \Psi_{3,a} + 3\xi_a + S_{3,a} (-1)^k \frac{2}{n^{(k)}h} + 3h n_o^{(k)} (\xi_{3,a} + 5\phi_a) \right] \quad (16b)$$

$$Q_a^{(k)} - \frac{14J_a^{(k)}}{(n^{(k)}h)^2} + \frac{n^{(k)}h}{12} (T_a^{(k-1)} + T_a^{(k)}) = - \frac{3h^3}{40} n^{(k)3} \bar{C}_a^{(k)} (\xi_{3,a} + 5\phi_a) \quad (16c)$$

$$- \frac{1}{\bar{C}_a^{(k)}} \left[ \frac{1}{12} Q_a^{(k)} - \frac{5J_a^{(k)}}{3(n^{(k)}h)^2} + \frac{3R_a^{(k)}}{7n^{(k)}h} \right] - \frac{1}{\bar{C}_a^{(k+1)}} \left[ \frac{1}{12} Q_a^{(k+1)} - \frac{5J_a^{(k+1)}}{3(n^{(k+1)}h)^2} - \frac{3R_a^{(k+1)}}{7n^{(k+1)}h} \right] \quad (16d)$$

$$= - \frac{h}{126} \left[ - \frac{n^{(k)}}{\bar{C}_a^{(k)}} T_a^{(k-1)} + 8 \left( \frac{n^{(k)}}{\bar{C}_a^{(k)}} + \frac{n^{(k+1)}}{\bar{C}_a^{(k+1)}} \right) T_a^{(k)} - \frac{n^{(k+1)}}{\bar{C}_a^{(k+1)}} T_a^{(k+1)} \right]$$

• For Normal Stresses

$$Q_3^{(k)} - \frac{8J_3^{(k)}}{(n^{(k)}h)^2} + \frac{n^{(k)}h}{30} (T_3^{(k-1)} + T_3^{(k)}) = \frac{2h}{5} n^{(k)} C_{33}^{(k)} \left[ \Psi_3 + S_3 (-1)^k \frac{2}{n^{(k)}h} + 3h n_o^{(k)} \xi_3 \right] + \frac{2h}{5} n^{(k)} \left[ \tilde{U} + h n_o^{(k)} \tilde{\Psi} + \frac{h^2}{2} (3n_o^{(k)2} - \frac{1}{4}) \tilde{\xi} + \frac{h^3}{2} \left( 5n_o^{(k)3} - \frac{3}{4} n_o^{(k)} \right) \tilde{\phi} \right] \quad (17a)$$

$$\frac{1}{h} R_3^{(k)} - \frac{32I_3^{(k)}}{5n^{(k)2}h^3} + \frac{n^{(k)2}h}{140} (T_3^{(k-1)} - T_3^{(k)}) = \frac{11}{350} h^2 n^{(k)3} C_{33}^{(k)} \xi_3 + \frac{11}{1050} h^2 n^{(k)3} \left[ \tilde{\Psi} + (-1)^k \frac{2}{n^{(k)}h} \tilde{S} + 3h n_o^{(k)} \tilde{\xi} + \frac{3h^2}{2} (5n_o^{(k)2} - \frac{1}{4}) \tilde{\phi} \right] \quad (17b)$$

$$Q_3^{(k)} - \frac{14J_3^{(k)}}{(n^{(k)}h)^2} + \frac{n^{(k)}h}{12} (T_3^{(k-1)} + T_3^{(k)}) = - \frac{3h^3}{40} n^{(k)3} [\tilde{\xi} + 5h n_o^{(k)} \tilde{\phi}] \quad (17c)$$

$$\frac{1}{h} R_3^{(k)} - \frac{15I_3^{(k)}}{2n^{(k)2}h^3} + \frac{n^{(k)2}h}{96} (T_3^{(k-1)} - T_3^{(k)}) = - \frac{11h^4}{2688} n^{(k)5} \tilde{\phi} \quad (17d)$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 & -\frac{11}{12} \left[ \frac{Q_3^{(k)}}{C_{33}^{(k)}} + \frac{Q_3^{(k+1)}}{C_{33}^{(k+1)}} \right] + \frac{15}{2h} \left[ \frac{R_3^{(k)}}{n^{(k)} C_{33}^{(k)}} - \frac{R_3^{(k+1)}}{n^{(k+1)} C_{33}^{(k+1)}} \right] + \frac{55}{3h^2} \left[ \frac{J_3^{(k)}}{n^{(k)2} C_{33}^{(k)}} + \frac{J_3^{(k+1)}}{n^{(k+1)2} C_{33}^{(k+1)}} \right] \\
 & - \frac{70}{h^3} \left[ \frac{I_3^{(k)}}{n^{(k)3} C_{33}^{(k)}} - \frac{I_3^{(k+1)}}{n^{(k+1)3} C_{33}^{(k+1)}} \right] = \frac{h}{18} \left[ \frac{n^{(k)}}{C_{33}^{(k)}} T_3^{(k-1)} + 10 \left( \frac{n^{(k)}}{C_{33}^{(k)}} + \frac{n^{(k+1)}}{C_{33}^{(k+1)}} \right) T_3^{(k)} + \frac{n^{(k+1)}}{C_{33}^{(k+1)}} T_3^{(k+1)} \right]
 \end{aligned} \tag{17e}$$

where in (16a,b,c) and (17a,b,c,d)  $k$  ranges from 1 to  $N$  while in (16d) and (17e)  $k$  ranges from 1 to  $(N-1)$ . Also, no summation on  $\alpha$  is implied in (16) and

$$\tilde{C}_\alpha^{(k)} \equiv \delta_{\alpha 1} C_{55}^{(k)} + \delta_{\alpha 2} C_{44}^{(k)} ; n_o^{(k)} \equiv x_{30}^{(k)}/h \tag{18}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} \tilde{U} \\ \tilde{\Psi} \\ \tilde{S} \\ \tilde{\xi} \\ \tilde{\phi} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} U_{1,1} & U_{2,2} \\ \Psi_{1,1} & \Psi_{2,2} \\ S_{1,1} & S_{2,2} \\ \xi_{1,1} & \xi_{2,2} \\ \phi_{1,1} & \phi_{2,2} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} C_{13} \\ C_{23} \end{bmatrix}^{(k)} \tag{19}$$

By solving (16) and (17),  $Q_i^{(k)}$ ,  $R_i^{(k)}$ ,  $J_i^{(k)}$ ,  $I_3^{(k)}$  and  $T_i^{(k)}$  are obtained in terms of  $U_i$ ,  $\Psi_i$ ,  $S_i$ ,  $\xi_i$  and  $\phi_\alpha$  and their derivatives. As a result, the quantities  $N_{3i}$ ,  $M_{3i}$ ,  $K_{3i}$ ,  $L_{3i}$  of Eq. (15c) can be determined as functions of these displacement variables. Such expressions will automatically include the appropriate shear correction factors by virtue of the Reissner mixed variational principle.

The equilibrium equations (14) are supplemented with the following suitable boundary conditions:

$$\text{specify } U_i \text{ or } N_{\alpha i} v_\alpha , \tag{20a}$$

$$\text{specify } \Psi_i \text{ or } M_{\alpha i} v_\alpha , \tag{20b}$$

$$\text{specify } S_i \text{ or } Z_{\alpha i} v_\alpha , \tag{20c}$$

$$\text{specify } \xi_i \text{ or } L_{\alpha i} v_\alpha , \tag{20d}$$

$$\text{specify } \phi_\alpha \text{ or } P_{\beta \alpha} v_\beta . \tag{20e}$$

The remaining constitutive equations for  $N_{\alpha\beta}$ ,  $M_{\alpha\beta}$ ,  $Z_{\alpha\beta}$ ,  $L_{\alpha\beta}$  and  $P_{\alpha\beta}$  are obtained by substituting

(3a), (4), (8) and (10b) into (15a) to yield:

$$\begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{h} N \\ \frac{1}{h^2} M \\ \frac{1}{h} Z \\ \frac{1}{h^3} L \\ \frac{1}{h^4} P \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} [N_u] & [N_\psi] & 0 & [N_\xi] & [N_\phi] \\ [M_\psi] & [M_s] & [M_\xi] & [M_\phi] & \\ \text{symmetric} & & \frac{1}{3} [N_u] & [Z_\xi] & [Z_\phi] \\ & & [L_\xi] & [L_\phi] & \\ & & [P_\phi] & & \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} U \\ h \Psi \\ S \\ h^2 \xi \\ h^3 \phi \end{bmatrix} + \sum_{k=1}^N [C]^{(k)} \begin{bmatrix} V^N \\ h V^M \\ V^Z \\ h^2 V^L \\ h^3 V^P \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} Q_3 \\ \frac{1}{h} R_3 \\ \frac{1}{h^2} J_3 \\ \frac{1}{h^3} I_3 \end{bmatrix}^{(k)} \quad (21)$$

where  $N = [N_{11} \ N_{22} \ N_{12}]^T$ ,  $U = [U_{1,1} \ U_{2,2}U_{1,2} + U_{2,1}]^T$  with analogous expressions for  $M$ ,  $\Psi$ , ...,  $P$ ,  $\phi$ .  $[N_u], \dots, [P_\phi]$  are  $3 \times 3$  matrices,  $[C]^{(k)}$  is a  $15 \times 5$  matrix and  $V^N, \dots, V^P$  are  $1 \times 4$  vectors, which are given in the Appendix.

### 5. CYLINDRICAL BENDING OF LAMINATED PLATES

In order to test the accuracy of the present theory, cylindrical bending of composite plates under sinusoidal loading is considered. The plate is simply supported at the ends  $x_1 = 0$  and  $l$  and is infinitely long in the  $x_2$ -direction. The prescribed boundary conditions on the top and bottom surfaces of the plate are:

$$T_1^+ = 0, T_3^+ = q \sin \frac{\pi x_1}{l} \quad \text{on } x_3 = \frac{h}{2} \quad (22a)$$

$$T_1^- = T_3^- = 0 \quad \text{on } x_3 = -\frac{h}{2}. \quad (22b)$$

The boundary conditions for the simply supported ends are, from (20):

$$U_3 = \Psi_3 = S_3 = \xi_3 = 0 \quad \text{at } x_1 = 0, l \quad (23a)$$

$$N_{11} = M_{11} = Z_{11} = L_{11} = P_{11} = 0 \quad \text{at } x_1 = 0, l. \quad (23b)$$

Using surface boundary conditions (22), the equilibrium equations (14) for cylindrical bending reduce to:

$$N_{11,1} = 0 \quad (24a)$$

$$N_{13,1} + q \sin \frac{\pi x_1}{l} = 0 \quad (24b)$$

$$M_{11,1} - N_{31} = 0 \quad (24c)$$

$$M_{13,1} - N_{33} + \frac{h}{2} q \sin \frac{\pi x_1}{l} = 0 \quad (24d)$$

$$Z_{11,1} - K_{31} = 0 \quad (24e)$$

$$Z_{13,1} - K_{33} - q \sin \frac{\pi x_1}{l} = 0 \quad (24f)$$

$$L_{11,1} - 3M_{31} = 0 \quad (24g)$$

$$L_{13,1} - 3M_{33} + \frac{h^2}{4} q \sin \frac{\pi x_1}{l} = 0 \quad (24h)$$

$$P_{11,1} - 5L_{31} - \frac{h^2}{4} N_{31} = 0 \quad (24i)$$

From the boundary condition  $N_{11} = 0$  at  $x_1 = 0, l$ , Eq. (24a) implies that

$$N_{11} = 0 \quad (25)$$

Next Eqs. (15a,c) are expressed in terms of the displacement variables  $U_1, \dots, \xi_3$ . To this end, the constitutive equations (16) and (17), for the cylindrical bending analysis, can be rewritten in the following vector form:

$$Q_1 - \frac{1}{h^2} \bar{J}_1 + h[A_1] T_1 = \lambda_1 \quad (26a)$$

$$\frac{1}{h} R_1 + h[B_1] T_1 = \lambda_2 \quad (26b)$$

$$Q_1 - \frac{7}{4} \frac{1}{h^2} \bar{J}_1 + \frac{5}{2} h [A_1] T_1 = \lambda_3 \quad (26c)$$

$$[TQ_1] Q_1 + \frac{1}{h} [TR_1] R_1 - \frac{5}{2} \frac{1}{h^2} [TQ_1] \bar{J}_1 = h[C_1] T_1 \quad (26d)$$

and

$$Q_3 - \frac{1}{h^2} \bar{J}_3 + h[A_1] T_3 = \xi_1 \quad (27a)$$

$$\frac{1}{h} R_3 - \frac{1}{h^3} \bar{I}_3 - \frac{2}{7} h[B_1] T_3 = \xi_2 \quad (27b)$$

$$Q_3 - \frac{7}{4} \frac{1}{h^2} \bar{J}_3 + \frac{5}{2} h[A_1] T_3 = \xi_3 \quad (27c)$$

$$\frac{1}{h} R_3 - \frac{75}{64} \frac{1}{h^3} \bar{I}_3 - \frac{5}{12} h[B_1] T_3 = \xi_4 \quad (27d)$$

$$[TQ_3] Q_3 + \frac{1}{h} [TR_3] R_3 - \frac{5}{2} \frac{1}{h^2} [TQ_3] \bar{J}_3 - \frac{35}{24} \frac{1}{h^3} [TR_3] \bar{I}_3 = h[C_3] T_3 \quad (27e)$$

$$\text{where } \bar{J}_i \equiv \frac{8 J_i}{\pi^{(k)^2}} \quad i = 1, 3 \quad \text{and} \quad \bar{I}_3 \equiv \frac{32}{5 \pi^{(k)^2}} I_3 \quad (28)$$

The matrices  $[A_1], \dots, [C_3]$  and vectors  $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_4$  are given in the Appendix. The vector equations (26a,b,c) and (27a,b,c,d) have  $N$ -components, while the vector equations (26d) and (27e) have  $(N-1)$  components. Matrices  $[A_1], \dots, [C_3]$  depend on the volume fractions  $\pi^{(k)}$  and elastic constants  $C_{11}^{(k)}, C_{13}^{(k)}$  and  $C_{33}^{(k)}$ , while the vectors  $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_4$  contain the displacement variables  $U_1, \dots, U_3$ .

Eqs. (26) are easily solved by substituting  $Q_1, \frac{1}{h} R_1$  and  $\frac{1}{h^2} \bar{J}_1$  in terms of  $T_1$  from (26a,b,c) into (26d). This yields a new equation involving  $T_1$  only, which can thus be solved for  $T_1$ . Then by back substitution expressions for  $Q_1, \frac{1}{h} R_1$  and  $\frac{1}{h^2} \bar{J}_1$  in terms of  $\lambda_1, \lambda_2$  and  $\lambda_3$  are obtained. Proceeding in a similar manner with (27a,b,c,d)  $Q_3, \frac{1}{h} R_3, \frac{1}{h^2} \bar{J}_3$  and  $\frac{1}{h^3} \bar{I}_3$  in terms of  $\kappa_1, \kappa_2, \kappa_3$  and  $\kappa_4$  are determined. These expressions are:

$$\begin{bmatrix} Q_1 \\ \frac{1}{h^2} \bar{J}_1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} (\frac{7}{3}[I] - [AQ_1]) & -(\frac{4}{3}[I] - 2[AQ_1]) \\ (\frac{4}{3}[I] - 2[AQ_1]) & -(\frac{4}{3}[I] - 4[AQ_1]) \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \lambda_1 \\ \lambda_3 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} [AR_1] \\ 2[AR_1] \end{bmatrix} \lambda_2 \quad (29a)$$

$$\frac{1}{h} R_1 = [BQ_1](\lambda_1 - 2\lambda_3) + ([I] - [BR_1])\lambda_2 \quad (29b)$$

and

$$\begin{bmatrix} Q_3 \\ \frac{1}{h^2} \bar{J}_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} (\frac{7}{3}[I] - [AQ_3]) & -(\frac{4}{3}[I] - 2[AQ_3]) \\ (\frac{4}{3}[I] - 2[AQ_3]) & -(\frac{4}{3}[I] - 4[AQ_3]) \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \kappa_1 \\ \kappa_3 \end{bmatrix} + \frac{1}{3} \begin{bmatrix} [AR_3] \\ 2[AR_3] \end{bmatrix} (8\kappa_4 - 5\kappa_2) \quad (30a)$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{h} R_3 \\ \frac{1}{h^3} \bar{I}_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} (\frac{75}{11}[I] + \frac{50}{63}[BR_3]) & -(\frac{64}{11}[I] + \frac{80}{63}[BR_3]) \\ (\frac{64}{11}[I] + \frac{80}{63}[BR_3]) & -(\frac{64}{11}[I] + \frac{128}{63}[BR_3]) \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \kappa_2 \\ \kappa_4 \end{bmatrix} - \frac{1}{21} \begin{bmatrix} 10[BQ_3] \\ 16[BQ_3] \end{bmatrix} (2\kappa_3 - \kappa_1) \quad (30b)$$

where  $[I]$  is the  $N \times N$  identity matrix and

$$\begin{bmatrix} [AQ_i] & [AR_i] \\ [BQ_i] & [BR_i] \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} [A_1] \\ [B_1] \end{bmatrix} [TV_i] \begin{bmatrix} [TQ_i] & [TR_i] \end{bmatrix} \quad i = 1, 3 \quad (31a)$$

with

with

$$[TV_1] = (4[TQ_1][A_1] + [TR_1][B_1] + [C_1])^{-1} \quad (31b)$$

$$[TV_3] = (4[TQ_3][A_1] - \frac{40}{63}[TR_3][B_1] + [C_3])^{-1} \quad (31c)$$

$[TQ_1], \dots, [TR_1]$  are  $N \times N$  matrices, while  $[TV_1]$  are  $(N-1) \times (N-1)$  matrices. By inserting (29) and (30) into (15c) and (21) the appropriate constitutive relations for the cylindrical bending problem in terms of the displacement variables  $U_1, \dots, \xi_3$  and their derivatives with respect to  $x_1$  are obtained.

The form of the dependence on the displacement variables  $U_1, \dots, \xi_3$  of the constitutive equations thus obtained and the nature of the applied load suggest the following expressions for the displacements:

$$\begin{bmatrix} U_1 \\ \Psi_1 \\ S_1 \\ \xi_1 \\ \phi_1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} h\hat{U}_1 \\ \hat{\Psi}_1 \\ h\hat{S}_1 \\ \hat{\xi}_1/h \\ \hat{\phi}/h^2 \end{bmatrix} \cos \pi \frac{x_1}{l} \quad \text{and} \quad \begin{bmatrix} U_3 \\ \Psi_3 \\ S_3 \\ \xi_3 \\ \phi_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} h\hat{U}_3 \\ \hat{\Psi}_3 \\ h\hat{S}_3 \\ \hat{\xi}_3/h \\ \hat{\phi}/h^2 \end{bmatrix} \sin \pi \frac{x_1}{l} \quad (32)$$

where the "hat" quantities are nondimensional by definition. It is easily proven that the boundary conditions (23) are satisfied when (32) are substituted therein.

Finally, inserting (32) into the constitutive equations obtained in the manner described above and these in turn into the equilibrium equations (24) and (25) yields a system of nine algebraic equations with the nine nondimensional quantities  $\hat{U}_1, \dots, \hat{\xi}_3$  as unknowns. This system is conveniently written in matrix form as

$$[\mathbf{B}] \mathbf{U} = \mathbf{F} \quad (33)$$

$$\text{where } \mathbf{U} = [\hat{U}_1, \hat{\Psi}_1, \hat{S}_1, \hat{\xi}_1, \hat{\phi}_1, \hat{U}_3, \hat{\Psi}_3, \hat{S}_3, \hat{\xi}_3]^T \quad (34a)$$

$$\mathbf{F} = [0, q, 0, \frac{1}{2}q, 0, -q, 0, \frac{1}{4}q, 0]^T \quad (34b)$$

and  $[\mathbf{B}]$  is a  $9 \times 9$  matrix.

## 6. NUMERICAL RESULTS

In order to assess the accuracy of the present theory the problem of the cylindrical bending of an infinitely long strip under sinusoidal loading is examined. The exact elasticity solution has been given by Pagano [1], where a three layer cross-ply laminate was considered, the  $0^\circ$  layers being at the outer surfaces of the laminate. The elastic properties are:

$$\text{for the } 0^\circ \text{ layers} \quad \frac{\tilde{C}_{11}}{E_T} = 25.062657, \quad \frac{C_{13}}{E_T} = 0.335570 \quad (35a)$$

$$\frac{C_{33}}{E_T} = 1.071141, \quad \frac{C_{55}}{E_T} = 0.5;$$

$$\text{and for the } 90^\circ \text{ layers} \quad \frac{\tilde{C}_{11}}{E_T} = 1.002506, \quad \frac{C_{13}}{E_T} = 0.271141$$

$$\frac{C_{33}}{E_T} = 1.071141, \quad \frac{C_{55}}{E_T} = 0.2$$

where  $E_T$  is a reference modulus.

We follow Pagano's [1] nondimensionalization and write the displacements and stresses in the form

$$\bar{u}_1^{(k)} = \left( \frac{E_T}{q} \right) \frac{u_1^{(k)}(0, x_3)}{h}, \quad \bar{u}_3^{(k)} = \left( \frac{E_T}{q} \right) \frac{100h^3}{l^4} u_3^{(k)}\left(\frac{l}{2}, 0\right) \quad (36)$$

$$\bar{\sigma}_{11}^{(k)} = \frac{1}{q} \sigma_{11}^{(k)}\left(\frac{l}{2}, x_3\right)$$

$$\text{Also} \quad \bar{x}_3 = \frac{x_3}{h}, \quad S = \frac{l}{h} \quad (37)$$

In the various curves the solid line represents the exact solution while the results of the present theory are shown by a broken line. Also shown, for comparison purposes, are the results given by the first order zig-zag model [11] and Lo, Christensen and Wu's high-order theory (LCW) [7], which are

represented by a dashed-dotted line and dotted solid line, respectively. Symmetric 3, 5 and 9-ply laminates and asymmetric 4 and 8-ply laminates were examined, to test the present theory.

For a symmetric 3-ply laminate (0/90/0) with layers of equal thickness, Table 1 shows the values of the central deflection  $\bar{u}_3$  obtained from the different theories for a span-to-thickness ratio  $S$  of 4 and 6. As observed the present high-order theory correctly predicts the central deflection  $\bar{u}_3$  to the first two decimal digits, while the first order zig-zag model gives a better result than LCW. The variation of the in-plane displacement  $\bar{u}_1$  across the plate thickness is compared in Fig. 2a for  $S = 4$ , where it is seen that the curves for the present theory and the exact solution are almost identical. This improvement is also reflected in the variation of the in-plane stress  $\bar{\sigma}_{11}$  across the plate thickness, as shown in Fig. 2b. Very close agreement is found between Pagano's exact solution and the present theory, which has improved upon Lo, Christensen and Wu's high-order theory, especially at and in the neighborhood of the interfaces.

The present theory was next tested for a symmetric 5-ply laminate (0/90/0/90/0) with layers of equal thickness. The central deflection  $\bar{u}_3$  for span-to-thickness ratio  $S$  of 4 and 6, is shown in Table 1 where close agreement with the exact solution is observed. The variations across the plate thickness of in-plane variables  $\bar{u}_1^{(k)}$  and  $\bar{\sigma}_{11}^{(k)}$  are compared in Figs. 3 and 4. The curves for the present high-order theory and the exact solution are again almost identical. In particular, it is seen that the present theory has considerably improved upon Lo, Christensen and Wu's model in the interior layers of the plate.

To further assess the accuracy of the present high-order theory the more difficult case of a symmetric 9-layer cross-ply laminate (0/90/0/90/0/90/0/90/0) was considered. The 0° layers have equal thickness  $h/10$  while the 90° layers have equal thickness  $h/8$ . The results for the central deflection  $\bar{u}_3$  are given in Table 1 for  $S = 4$  and 6 where again close agreement with the exact solution is observed. The variations across the plate thickness of the in-plane displacement  $\bar{u}_1$  and normal stress  $\bar{\sigma}_{11}$  are shown in Figs. 5 and 6, for  $S = 4$  and 6 respectively. There the discrepancies between the first order zig-zag theory and the exact solution are more pronounced than in the 3- and 5-layer cases, as

expected. However, the results of the present theory are still very good when compared to the exact solution.

Finally, asymmetric 4 and 8 cross-ply laminates, with layers of equal thickness, were examined. The present theory predicts accurately the central deflection  $\bar{u}_3$ . These results are given in Table 2 for span-to-thickness ratio  $S$  of 4 and 6. The variation across the plate thickness of the in-plane displacement  $\bar{u}_1^{(k)}$  and normal stress  $\bar{\sigma}_{11}^{(k)}$  are shown in Figs. 7, 8 and 9 for  $S = 4$  and 6. From the curves for  $\bar{u}_1^{(k)}$ , it is seen that the first-order zig-zag theory deviates significantly from the exact solution at the bottom layer of the plate. On the other hand, the discrepancies between LCW and the exact solution, for both  $\bar{u}_1^{(k)}$  and  $\bar{\sigma}_{11}^{(k)}$  are more pronounced in the interior layers of the plate, while the present high-order theory is still in very good agreement with the exact solution.

## 7. CONCLUSION

A high-order laminated plate theory, which accurately predicts in-plane responses of symmetric and asymmetric laminates, was developed with the help of Reissner's new mixed variational principle [10]. The improvement was achieved by including a zig-zag shaped  $C^0$  function in the in-plane displacement variations across the plate thickness, as proposed by Murakami [11], while the non-linear variation is accounted for by using Legendre Polynomials. The accuracy of the theory was examined for the case of cylindrical bending of an infinitely long strip and compared with the exact elasticity solution given by Pagano [1]. The results for the central deflection and in-plane displacements and normal stresses for several symmetric and asymmetric cross-ply laminates indicate that the theory very accurately predicts these in-plane responses even for small span-to-thickness ratios. In all the cases considered, the proposed theory gave better in-plane responses than the Lo, Christensen and Wu high-order theory, especially in the interior layers of the plate. It was also observed that for symmetric laminates, the first order zig-zag model [11] predicts more accurately the central deflection than the Lo, Christensen and Wu high-order theory.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The research was supported by the Office of Naval Research under Grant N00014-84-K-0468 to the University of California at San Diego. The authors are grateful to Dr. A. Kushner for his support. Also, the author is thankful to Professors E. Reissner and G.A. Hegemier for their advice and comments on the manuscript.

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## APPENDIX

- Matrices  $[N_u]$ , ...,  $[P_\phi]$  in Eq. (21):

$$\begin{aligned}
 [N_u] &= \begin{bmatrix} D_2 & D_2' & 0 \\ D_2' & D_2'' & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & D_2''' \end{bmatrix}, [N_v] = \begin{bmatrix} C_1 & C_1' & 0 \\ C_1' & C_1'' & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & C_1''' \end{bmatrix}, \\
 [N_\xi] &= \begin{bmatrix} C_8 & C_8' & 0 \\ C_8' & C_8'' & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & C_8''' \end{bmatrix}, [N_\phi] = \begin{bmatrix} C_9 & C_9' & 0 \\ C_9' & C_9'' & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & C_9''' \end{bmatrix} \\
 [M_\psi] &= \begin{bmatrix} C_2 & C_2' & 0 \\ C_2' & C_2'' & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & C_2''' \end{bmatrix}, [M_s] = \begin{bmatrix} C_3 & C_3' & 0 \\ C_3' & C_3'' & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & C_3''' \end{bmatrix}, \quad (\text{A1}) \\
 [M_\xi] &= \begin{bmatrix} C_7 & C_7' & 0 \\ C_7' & C_7'' & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & C_7''' \end{bmatrix}, [M_\phi] = \begin{bmatrix} C_6 & C_6' & 0 \\ C_6' & C_6'' & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & C_6''' \end{bmatrix} \\
 [Z_\xi] &= \begin{bmatrix} D_3 & D_3' & 0 \\ D_3' & D_3'' & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & D_3''' \end{bmatrix}, [Z_\phi] = \begin{bmatrix} D_1 & D_1' & 0 \\ D_1' & D_1'' & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & D_1''' \end{bmatrix}, \\
 [L_\xi] &= \begin{bmatrix} D_5 & D_5' & 0 \\ D_5' & D_5'' & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & D_5''' \end{bmatrix}, [L_\phi] = \begin{bmatrix} F_3 & F_3' & 0 \\ F_3' & F_3'' & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & F_3''' \end{bmatrix} \\
 [P_\phi] &= \begin{bmatrix} F_4 & F_4' & 0 \\ F_4' & F_4'' & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & F_4''' \end{bmatrix}
 \end{aligned}$$

where

$$\begin{bmatrix} C_1 \\ C_2 \\ C_3 \end{bmatrix} = \sum_k \tilde{C}_{11}^{(k)} \begin{bmatrix} n_o^{(k)} n^{(k)} \\ n^{(k)3}/12 + n_o^{(k)2} n^{(k)} \\ (-1)^k n^{(k)2}/6 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} D_2 \\ D_3 \end{bmatrix} = \sum_k \tilde{C}_{11}^{(k)} \begin{bmatrix} n^{(k)} \\ (-1)^k n_o^{(k)} n^{(k)2}/2 \end{bmatrix}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}
 C_6 &= \frac{5}{2} C_5 - \frac{3}{8} C_2, \quad C_7 = \frac{3}{2} C_4 - \frac{1}{8} C_1, \quad C_8 = \frac{3}{2} C_2 - \frac{1}{8} D_2, \quad C_9 = \frac{5}{2} C_4 - \frac{3}{8} C_1 \\
 D_1 &= D_4 - \frac{3}{8} C_3, \quad D_5 = \frac{9}{4} C_5 - \frac{3}{8} C_2 + \frac{1}{64} D_2 \\
 F_3 &= \frac{15}{4} F_1 - \frac{7}{8} C_4 + \frac{3}{64} C_1, \quad F_4 = \frac{25}{4} F_2 - \frac{15}{8} C_5 + \frac{9}{64} C_2
 \end{aligned} \tag{A3}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned}
 \begin{bmatrix} C_4 \\ C_5 \end{bmatrix} &= \sum_k \tilde{C}_{11}^{(k)} \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{4} n_o^{(k)} n^{(k)3} + n_o^{(k)3} n^{(k)} \\ \frac{1}{80} n^{(k)5} + \frac{1}{2} n_o^{(k)2} n^{(k)3} + n_o^{(k)4} n^{(k)} \end{bmatrix}, \quad D_4 = \sum_k \tilde{C}_{11}^{(k)} (-1)^k \left( \frac{n^{(k)4}}{16} + \frac{5}{4} n_o^{(k)2} n^{(k)2} \right) \\
 \begin{bmatrix} F_1 \\ F_2 \end{bmatrix} &= \sum_k \tilde{C}_{11}^{(k)} \begin{bmatrix} \frac{n_o^{(k)} n^{(k)5}}{16} + \frac{5}{6} n_o^{(k)3} n^{(k)3} + n_o^{(k)5} n^{(k)} \\ \frac{n^{(k)7}}{448} + \frac{3}{16} n_o^{(k)2} n^{(k)5} + \frac{5}{4} n_o^{(k)4} n^{(k)3} + n_o^{(k)6} n^{(k)} \end{bmatrix}
 \end{aligned} \tag{A4}$$

The ( ), ( )' and ( )'' quantities can be obtained from (A1,2,3,4) by replacing therein  $\tilde{C}_{11}^{(k)}$  by  $\tilde{C}_{12}^{(k)}$ ,  $\tilde{C}_{22}^{(k)}$  and  $\tilde{C}_{66}^{(k)}$  respectively, where  $k$  ranges from 1 to  $N$ .

- Matrix  $[C]^{(k)}$  and Vectors  $\psi^N, \dots, \psi^P$  in Eq. (21):

$$[C]_{(15 \times 4)}^{(k)} = \begin{bmatrix} c & & & \\ & c & 0 & \\ & & c & \\ 0 & & & c \\ & & & c \end{bmatrix}^{(k)} \quad \text{where } c^{(k)} = [C_{13}/C_{33} \quad C_{23}/C_{33} \quad 0]^T \tag{A5}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \psi^N &= [1, 0, 0, 0] ; \quad \psi^M = [n_o^{(k)}, 1, 0, 0] ; \quad \psi^Z = [0, (-1)^k \frac{2}{n^{(k)}}, 0, 0] \\
 \psi^L &= [\frac{1}{2} (3n_o^{(k)2} - \frac{1}{4}), 3n_o^{(k)}, \frac{3}{2}, 0] ; \quad \psi^P = [\frac{1}{2} (5n_o^{(k)3} - \frac{3n_o^{(k)}}{4}), \frac{3}{2} (5n_o^{(k)2} - \frac{1}{4}), \frac{15}{2} n_o^{(k)}, \frac{5}{2}]
 \end{aligned} \tag{A6}$$

- Matrices  $[A_1], \dots, [C_3]$  in Eqs. (26) and (27):

$$[A_1] = \frac{1}{30} \begin{bmatrix} n^{(k)} & 0 \\ 0 & n^{(k)} \end{bmatrix}_{(N \times N-1)}, \quad [B_1] = \frac{1}{40} \begin{bmatrix} 0 & n^{(k)2} \\ -n^{(k)2} & n^{(k)2} \end{bmatrix}_{(N \times N-1)}$$

$$[C_1] = \frac{1}{126} \begin{pmatrix} -n^{(k)} & 8 \left( \frac{n^{(k)}}{C_{55}^{(k)}} + \frac{n^{(k+1)}}{C_{55}^{(k+1)}} \right) & 0 \\ C_{55}^{(k)} & 0 & -n^{(k+1)} \\ 0 & 0 & C_{55}^{(k+1)} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$[TQ_1]_{(N-1) \times N} = \frac{1}{12} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -1 & -1 \\ \frac{-1}{C_{55}^{(k)}} & \frac{1}{C_{55}^{(k+1)}} & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad [TR_1]_{(N-1) \times N} = \frac{3}{7} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -1 & 1 \\ \frac{-1}{n^{(k)} C_{55}^{(k)}} & \frac{1}{n^{(k+1)} C_{55}^{(k+1)}} & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$[TQ_3]_{(N-1) \times N} = \frac{11}{12} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 1 \\ \frac{1}{C_{33}^{(k)}} & 0 & C_{33}^{(k+1)} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$[TR_3]_{(N-1) \times N} = \frac{-15}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 1 \\ \frac{1}{n^{(k)} C_{33}^{(k)}} & \frac{1}{n^{(k+1)} C_{33}^{(k+1)}} & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad [C_3]_{(N-1) \times (N-1)} = -\frac{1}{18} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 10 \left( \frac{n^{(k)}}{C_{33}^{(k)}} + \frac{n^{(k+1)}}{C_{33}^{(k+1)}} \right) & n^{(k+1)} \\ \frac{n^{(k)}}{C_{33}^{(k)}} & 0 & C_{55}^{(k+1)} \end{pmatrix}$$

• Vectors  $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_4$  in Eqs. (26) and (27):

$$\lambda_1 = h(U_{3,1} + \Psi_1)q_1 + S_1 b_1 + h^2(\Psi_{3,1} + 3\xi_1)\xi_1 + h^3\xi_{3,1}d_1 + h^4\phi_1 e_1$$

$$\lambda_2 = h^2(\Psi_{3,1} + 3\xi_1)f_1 + hS_{3,1}g_1 + h^3(\xi_{3,1} + 5\phi_1)p_1$$

$$\lambda_3 = \frac{-9}{7} h^3 (\xi_{3,1} + 5\phi_1) f_1 \tag{A8}$$

$$\xi_1 = hU_{1,1}q_2 + h\Psi_3q_3 + S_3b_3 + h^2\xi_3c_2 + h^2\Psi_{1,1}\xi_3 + h^3\xi_{1,1}d_3 + h^4\phi_{1,1}e_3$$

$$\xi_2 = h^2\xi_3f_2 + h^2\Psi_{1,1}f_3 + hS_{1,1}g_3 + h^3\xi_{1,1}p_2 + h^4\phi_{1,1}p_3$$

$$\xi_3 = -\frac{315}{44} h^3\xi_{1,1}f_3 - \frac{525}{44} h^4\phi_{1,1}p_2$$

$$\xi_4 = -h^4\phi_{1,1}s_3$$

The  $k^{\text{th}}$  component of the vectors  $q_1, \dots, s_3$  appearing in (A8) are given by

$$a_1^{(k)} = \frac{2}{5} n^{(k)} C_{55}^{(k)}, b_1^{(k)} = \frac{4}{5} (-1)^k C_{55}^{(k)}, c_1^{(k)} = \frac{2}{5} n_o^{(k)} n^{(k)} C_{55}^{(k)}, d_1^{(k)} = \frac{1}{5} (3n_o^{(k)2} - \frac{1}{4}) n^{(k)} C_{55}^{(k)}$$

$$e_1^{(k)} = \frac{3}{5} (5n_o^{(k)2} - \frac{1}{4}) n^{(k)} C_{55}^{(k)}, f_1^{(k)} = \frac{7}{120} n^{(k)3} C_{55}^{(k)}, g_1^{(k)} = \frac{7}{60} (-1)^k n^{(k)2} C_{55}^{(k)}, p_1^{(k)} = \frac{7}{40} n_o^{(k)} n^{(k)3} C_{55}^{(k)}$$

$$a_2^{(k)} = \frac{2}{5} n^{(k)} C_{13}^{(k)}, a_3^{(k)} = \frac{2}{5} n^{(k)} C_{33}^{(k)}, b_3^{(k)} = \frac{4}{5} (-1)^k C_{33}^{(k)}, c_2^{(k)} = \frac{6}{5} n_o^{(k)} n^{(k)} C_{33}^{(k)}, c_3^{(k)} = \frac{2}{5} n_o^{(k)} n^{(k)} C_{13}^{(k)}$$

$$d_3^{(k)} = \frac{1}{5} (3n_o^{(k)2} - \frac{1}{4}) n^{(k)} C_{13}^{(k)}, e_3^{(k)} = \frac{1}{5} (5n_o^{(k)3} - \frac{3}{4} n_o^{(k)}) n^{(k)} C_{13}^{(k)}, f_2^{(k)} = \frac{11}{350} n^{(k)3} C_{33}^{(k)} \quad (\text{A9})$$

$$f_3^{(k)} = \frac{11}{1050} n^{(k)3} C_{13}^{(k)}, g_3^{(k)} = \frac{11}{525} (-1)^k n^{(k)2} C_{13}^{(k)}, p_2^{(k)} = \frac{11}{350} n_o^{(k)} n^{(k)3} C_{13}^{(k)}$$

$$p_3^{(k)} = \frac{11}{700} (5 n_o^{(k)2} - \frac{1}{4}) n^{(k)3} C_{13}^{(k)}, s_3^{(k)} = \frac{11}{2688} n^{(k)5} C_{13}^{(k)}$$

TABLE HEADINGS

Table 1 Central Deflection  $\bar{u}_3$  for Symmetric Cross-Ply  
Laminates in Cylindrical Bending Under Sinusoidal  
Loading

Table 2 Central Deflection  $\bar{u}_3$  for Asymmetric Cross-Ply  
Laminates in Cylindrical Bending Under Sinusoidal  
Loading

**Table 1** Central Deflection  $\bar{u}_3$  for Symmetric Cross-Ply Laminates in Cylindrical Bending Under Sinusoidal Loading

| Number of Layers $N$     | $S = 4$ |       |       | $S = 6$ |       |       |
|--------------------------|---------|-------|-------|---------|-------|-------|
|                          | 3       | 5     | 9     | 3       | 5     | 9     |
| Exact Solution [1]       | 2.887   | 3.044 | 3.324 | 1.635   | 1.721 | 1.929 |
| Present Theory           | 2.881   | 3.032 | 3.313 | 1.634   | 1.716 | 1.921 |
| First-Order Zig-Zag [10] | 2.907   | 3.018 | 3.231 | 1.636   | 1.702 | 1.875 |
| LCW [7]                  | 2.687   | 2.597 | 2.835 | 1.514   | 1.507 | 1.708 |

**Table 2** Central Deflection  $\bar{u}_3$  for Asymmetric Cross-Ply Laminates in Cylindrical  
Bending Under Sinusoidal Loading

| Number of Layers $N$     | $S = 4$ |       | $S = 6$ |       |
|--------------------------|---------|-------|---------|-------|
|                          | 4       | 8     | 4       | 8     |
| Exact Solution [1]       | 4.181   | 3.724 | 2.562   | 2.224 |
| Present Theory           | 4.105   | 3.625 | 2.519   | 2.181 |
| First-Order Zig-Zag [10] | 3.316   | 3.225 | 2.107   | 1.934 |
| LCW [7]                  | 3.587   | 3.189 | 2.242   | 1.979 |

FIGURE LEGENDS

FIGURE 1: Plate geometry, coordinate system and trial in-plane displacements.

FIGURE 2a: Thickness variation of in-plane displacement  $\bar{u}_1^{(k)}$  of a symmetric 3-layer cross-ply laminate for  $S = 4$ .

FIGURE 2b: Thickness variation of normal stress  $\bar{\sigma}_{11}^{(k)}$  of a symmetric 3-layer cross-ply laminate for  $S = 4$ .

FIGURE 3a: Thickness variation of in-plane displacement  $\bar{u}_1^{(k)}$  of a symmetric 5-layer cross-ply laminate for  $S = 4$ .

FIGURE 3b: Thickness variation of normal stress  $\bar{\sigma}_{11}^{(k)}$  of a symmetric 5-layer cross-ply laminate for  $S = 4$ .

FIGURE 4a: Thickness variation of in-plane displacement  $\bar{u}_1^{(k)}$  of a symmetric 5-layer cross-ply laminate for  $S = 6$ .

FIGURE 4b: Thickness variation of normal stress  $\bar{\sigma}_{11}^{(k)}$  of a symmetric 5-layer cross-ply laminate for  $S = 6$ .

FIGURE 5a: Thickness variation of in-plane displacement  $\bar{u}_1^{(k)}$  of a symmetric 9-layer cross-ply laminate for  $S = 4$ .

FIGURE 5b: Thickness variation of normal stress  $\bar{\sigma}_{11}^{(k)}$  of a symmetric 9-layer cross-ply laminate for  $S = 4$ .

FIGURE 6a: Thickness variation of in-plane displacement  $\bar{u}_1^{(k)}$  of a symmetric 9-layer cross-ply laminate for  $S = 6$ .

FIGURE 6b: Thickness variation of normal stress  $\bar{\sigma}_{11}^{(k)}$  of a symmetric 9-layer cross-ply laminate for  $S = 6$ .

FIGURE 7a: Thickness variation of in-plane displacement  $\bar{u}_1^{(k)}$  of an asymmetric 4-layer cross-ply laminate for  $S = 4$ .

FIGURE 7b: Thickness variation of normal stress  $\bar{\sigma}_{11}^{(k)}$  of an asymmetric 4-layer cross-ply laminate for  $S = 4$ .

FIGURE 8a: Thickness variation of in-plane displacement  $\bar{u}_1^{(k)}$  of an asymmetric 4-layer cross-ply laminate for  $S = 6$ .

FIGURE 8b: Thickness variation of normal stress  $\bar{\sigma}_{11}^{(k)}$  of an asymmetric 4-layer cross-ply laminate for  $S = 6$ .

FIGURE 9a: Thickness variation of in-plane displacement  $\bar{u}_1^{(k)}$  of an asymmetric 8-layer cross-ply laminate for  $S = 4$ .

FIGURE 9b: Thickness variation of normal stress  $\bar{\sigma}_{11}^{(k)}$  of an asymmetric 8-layer cross-ply laminate for  $S = 4$ .

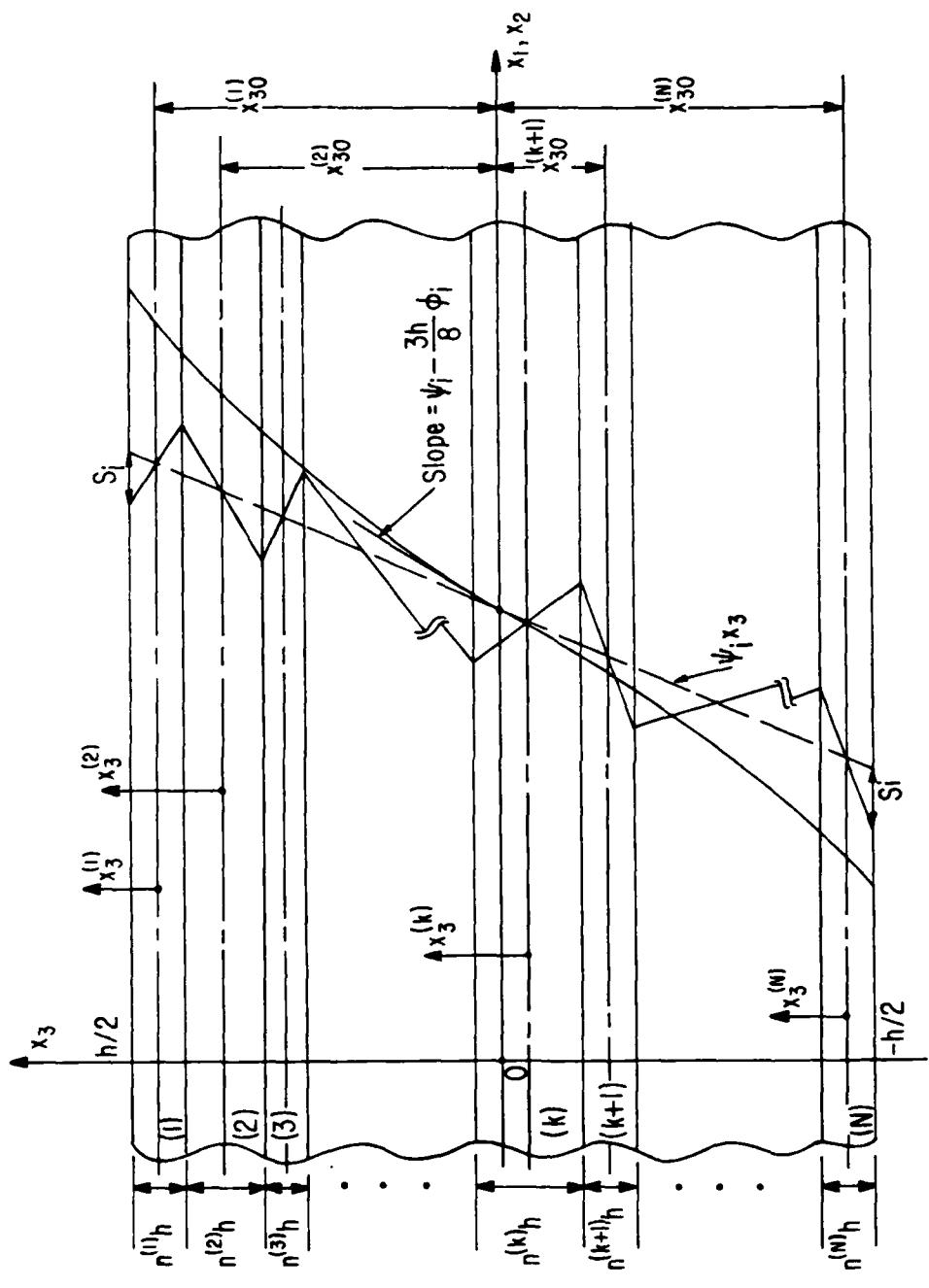


Fig. 1 Plate geometry, coordinate system, and trial in-plane displacements.

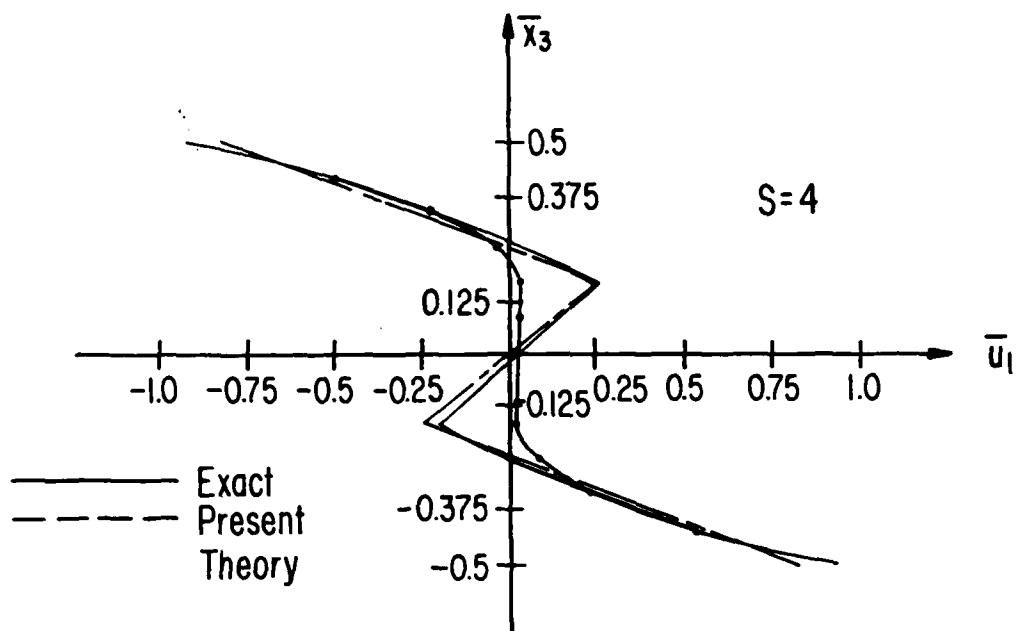


Fig. 2a Thickness variation of in-plane displacement  $\bar{u}_1^{(k)}$

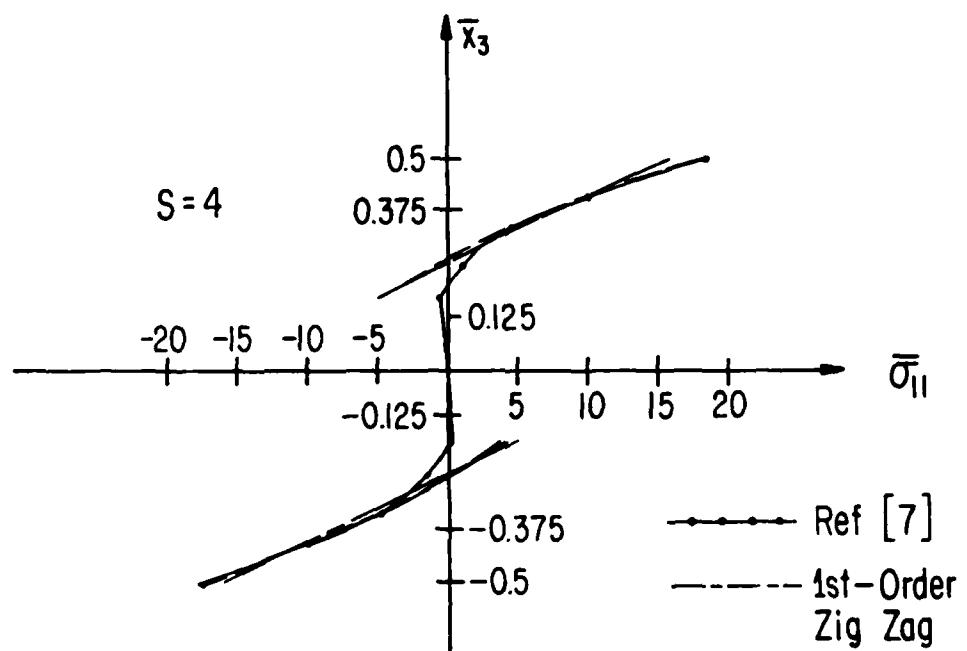


Fig. 2b Thickness variation of normal stress  $\bar{\sigma}_{11}^{(k)}$  of a symmetric 3-layer cross ply laminate for  $S=4$ .

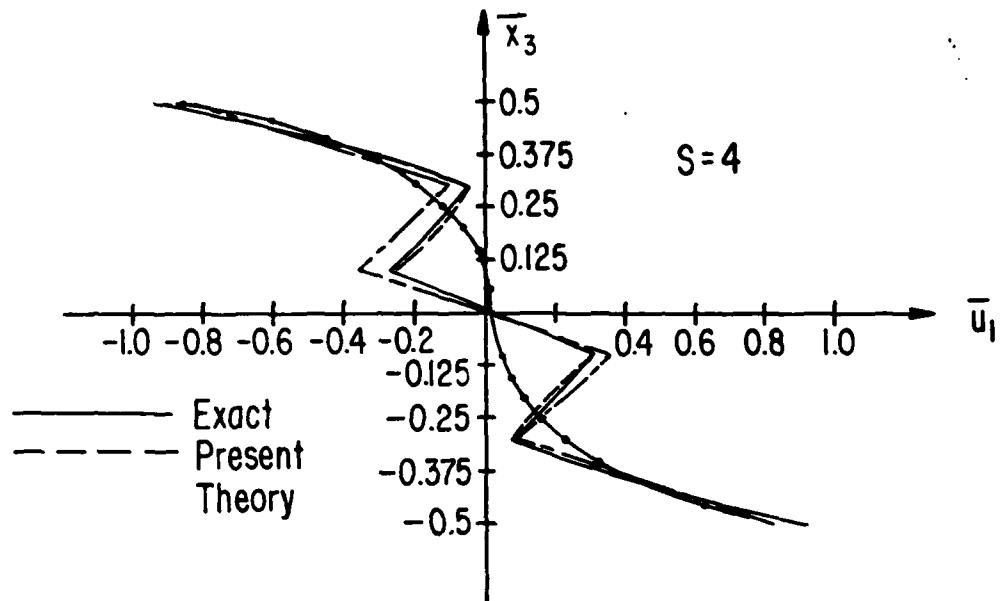


Fig. 3a Thickness variation of in-plane displacement  $\bar{u}_1^{(k)}$

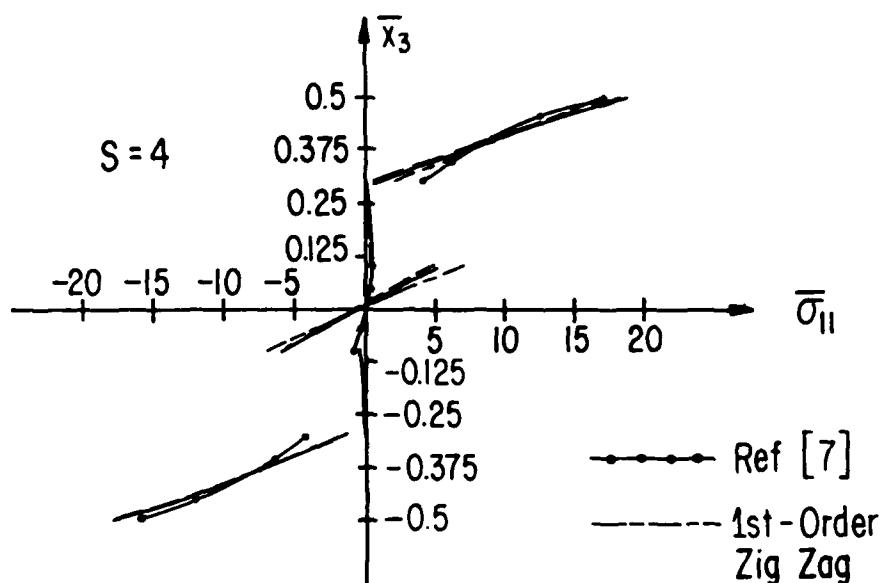


Fig. 3b Thickness variation of normal stress  $\bar{\sigma}_{11}^{(k)}$  of a symmetric 5-layer cross-ply laminate for  $S=4$ .

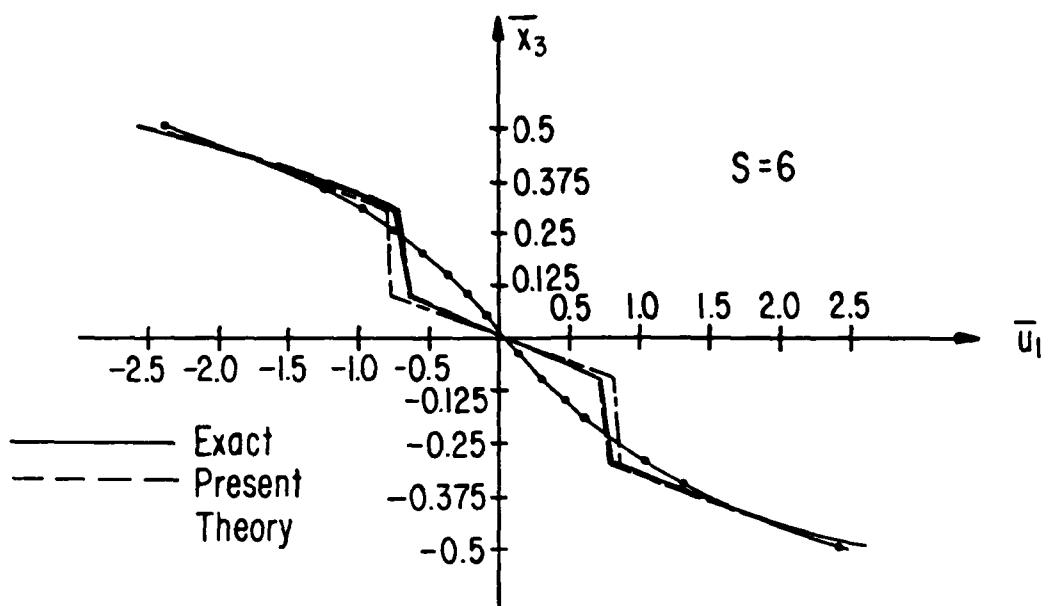


Fig. 4a Thickness variation of in-plane displacement  $\bar{u}_1^{(k)}$

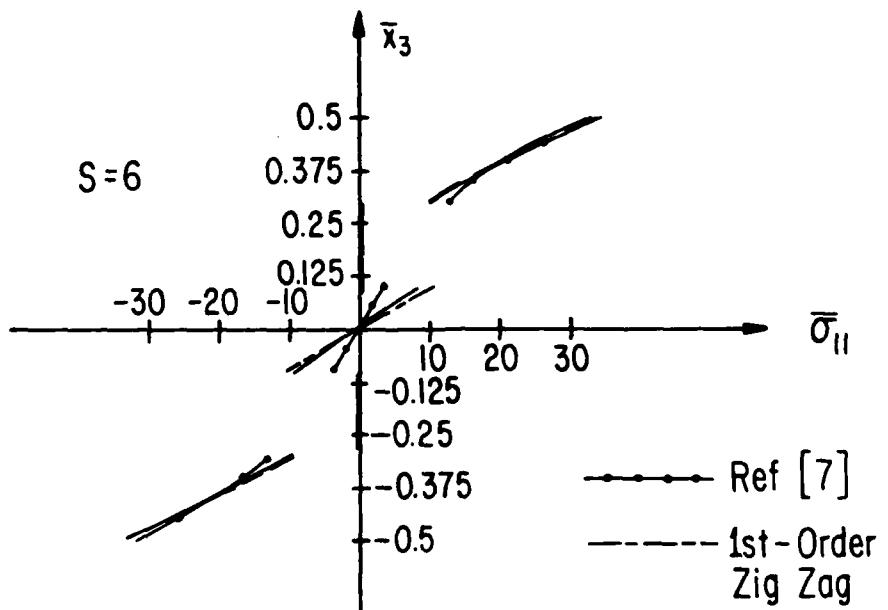


Fig. 4b Thickness variation of normal stress  $\bar{\sigma}_{11}^{(k)}$  of a symmetric 5-layer cross-ply laminate for  $S=6$ .

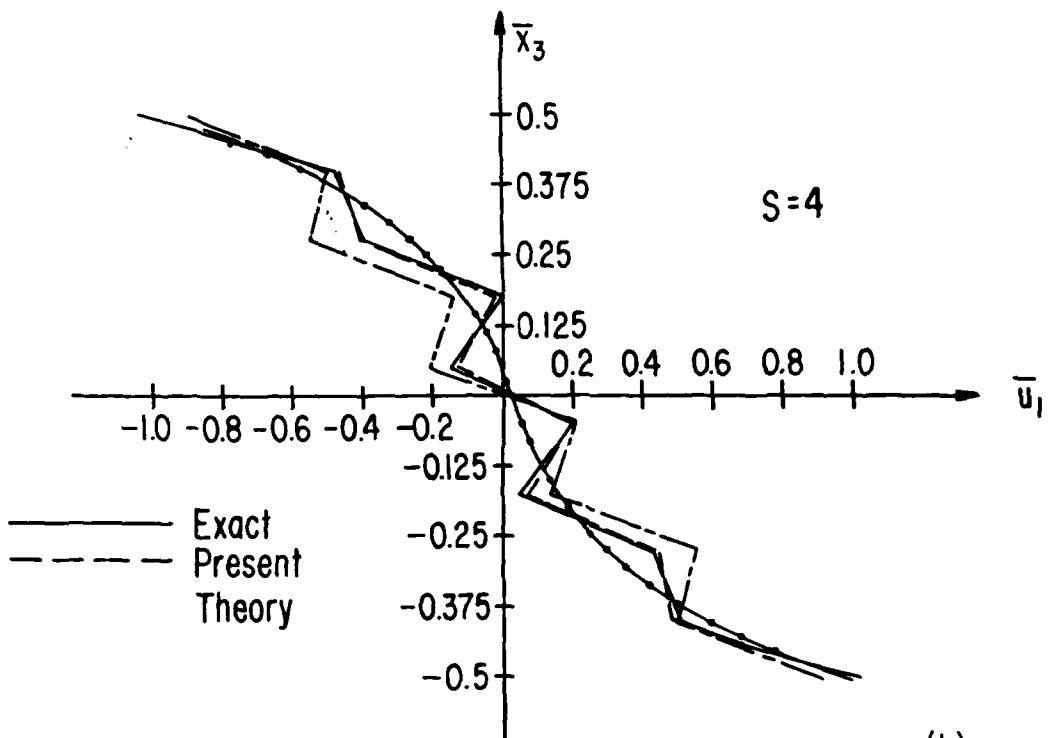


Fig. 5a Thickness variation of in-plane displacement  $\bar{u}_1^{(k)}$

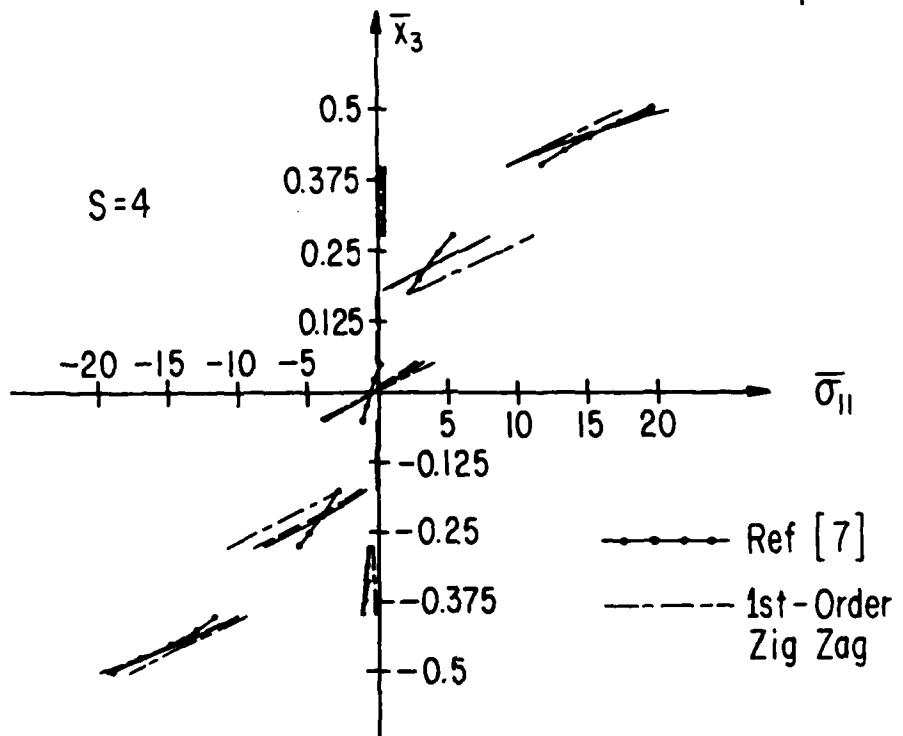


Fig. 5b Thickness variation of normal stress  $\bar{\sigma}_{11}^{(k)}$  of a symmetric 9-layer cross-ply laminate for  $S=4$ .

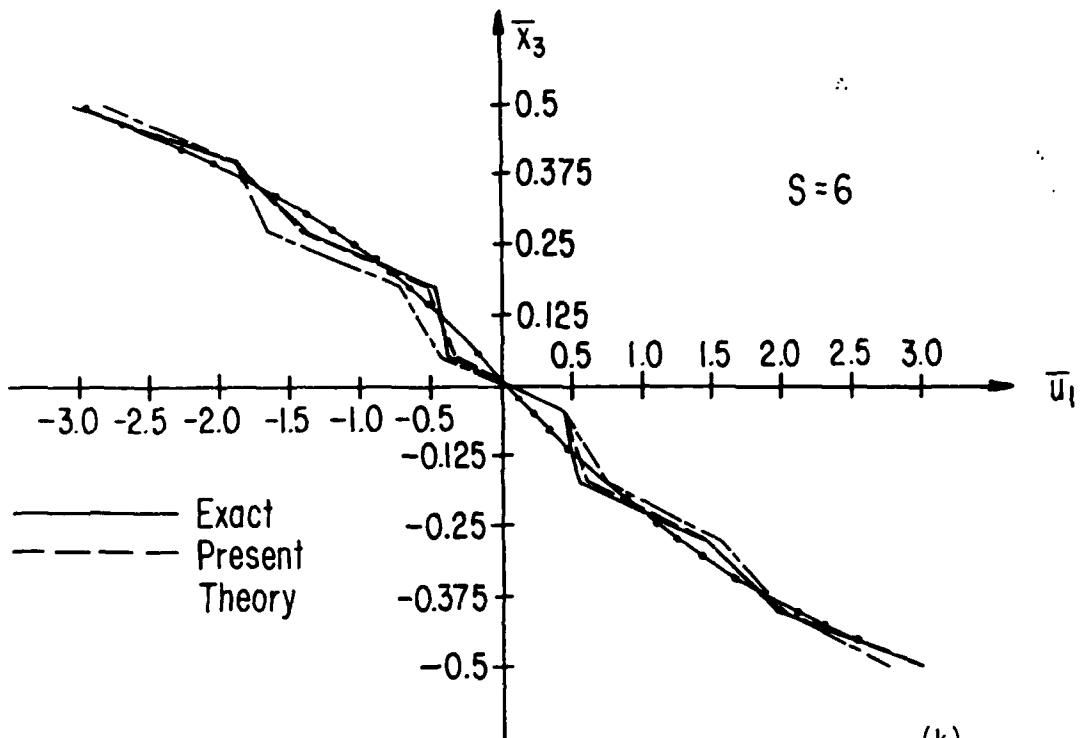


Fig. 6a Thickness variation of in-plane displacement  $\bar{u}_1^{(k)}$

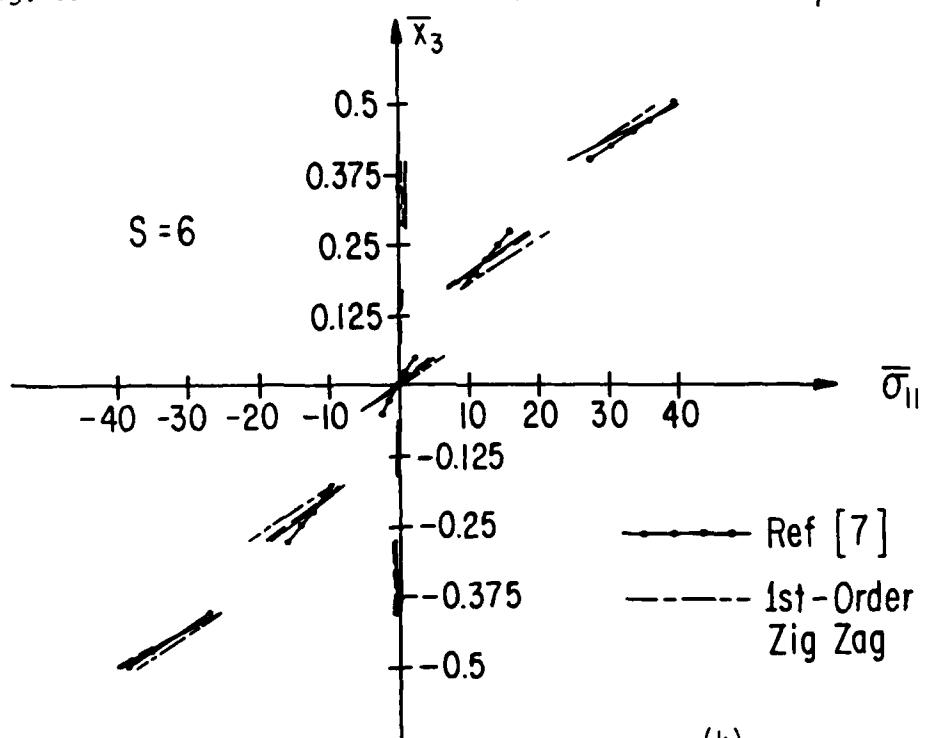


Fig. 6b Thickness variation of normal stress  $\bar{\sigma}_{11}^{(k)}$  of a symmetric 9-layer cross-ply laminate for  $S=6$ .

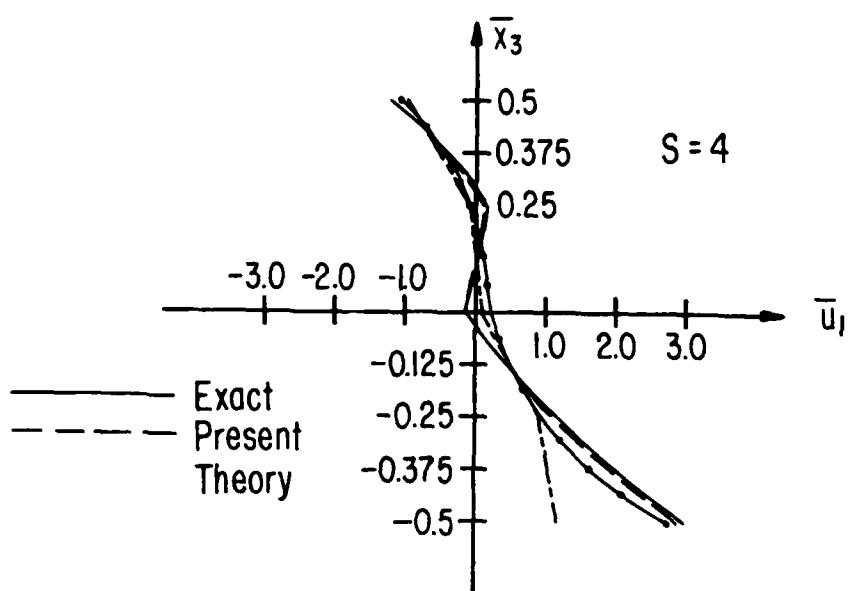


Fig. 7a Thickness variation of in-plane displacement  $\bar{u}_1^{(k)}$

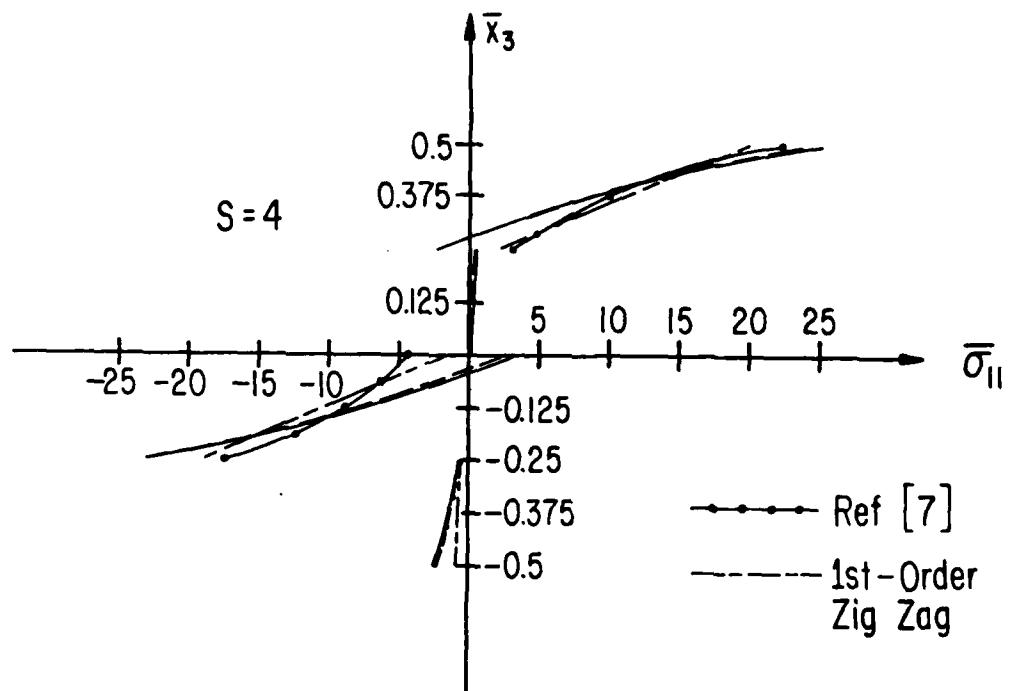


Fig. 7b Thickness variation of normal stress  $\bar{\sigma}_{11}^{(k)}$  of an asymmetric 4-layer cross-ply laminate for  $S=4$ .

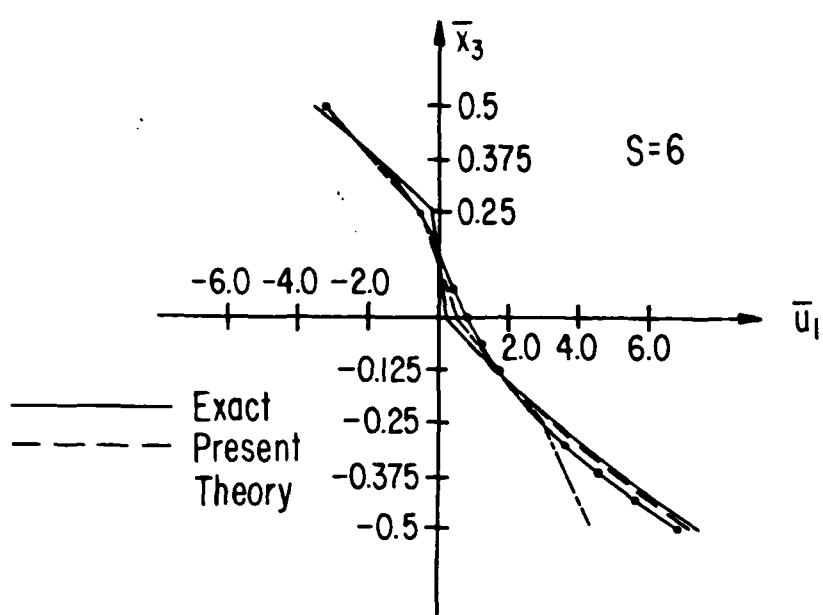


Fig. 8a Thickness variation of in-plane displacement  $\bar{u}_1^{(k)}$

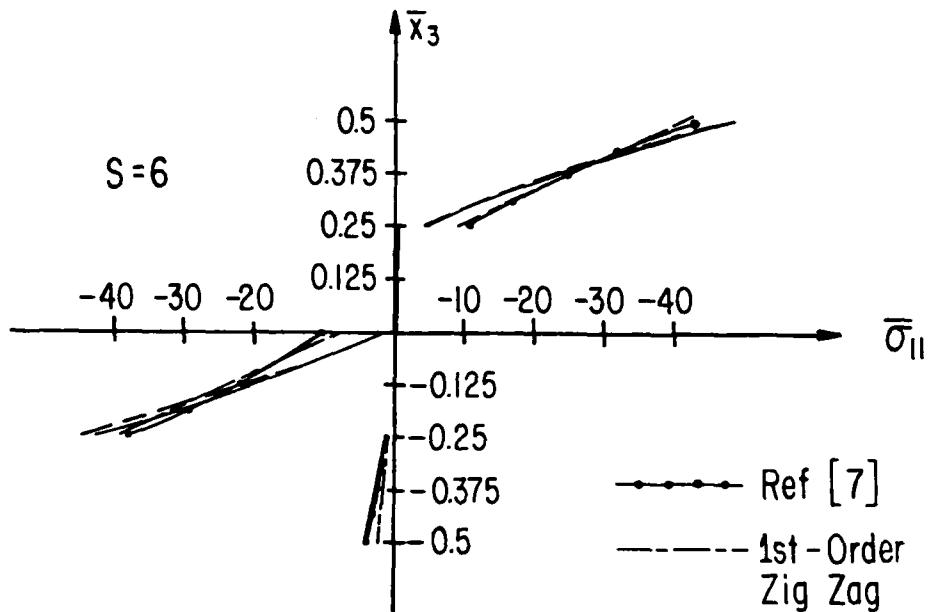


Fig. 8b Thickness variation of normal stress  $\bar{\sigma}_{11}^{(k)}$  of an asymmetric 4-layer cross-ply laminate for  $S=6$ .

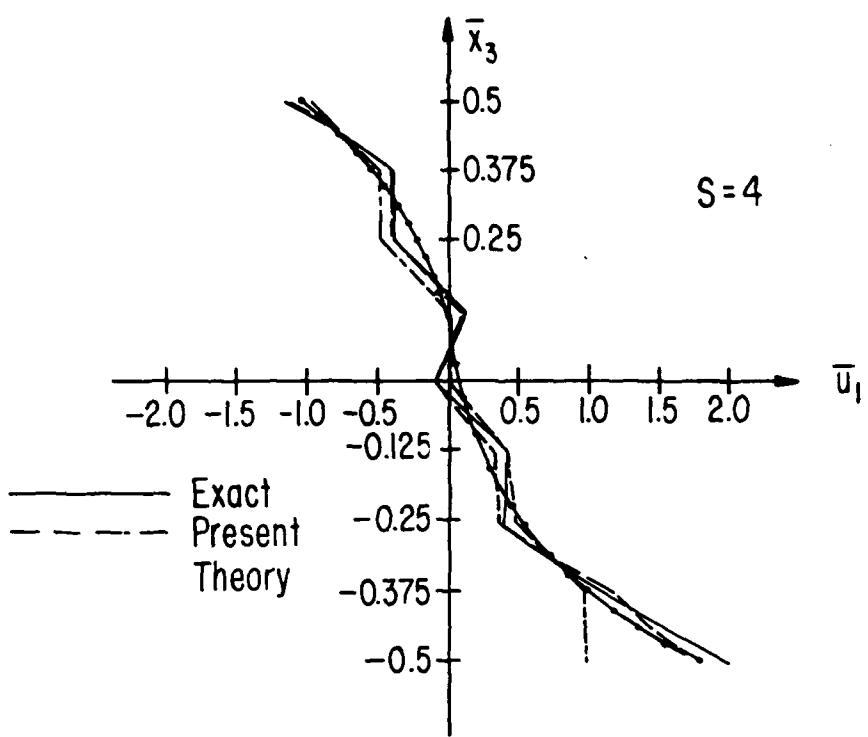


Fig. 9a Thickness variation of in-plane displacement  $\bar{u}_1(k)$

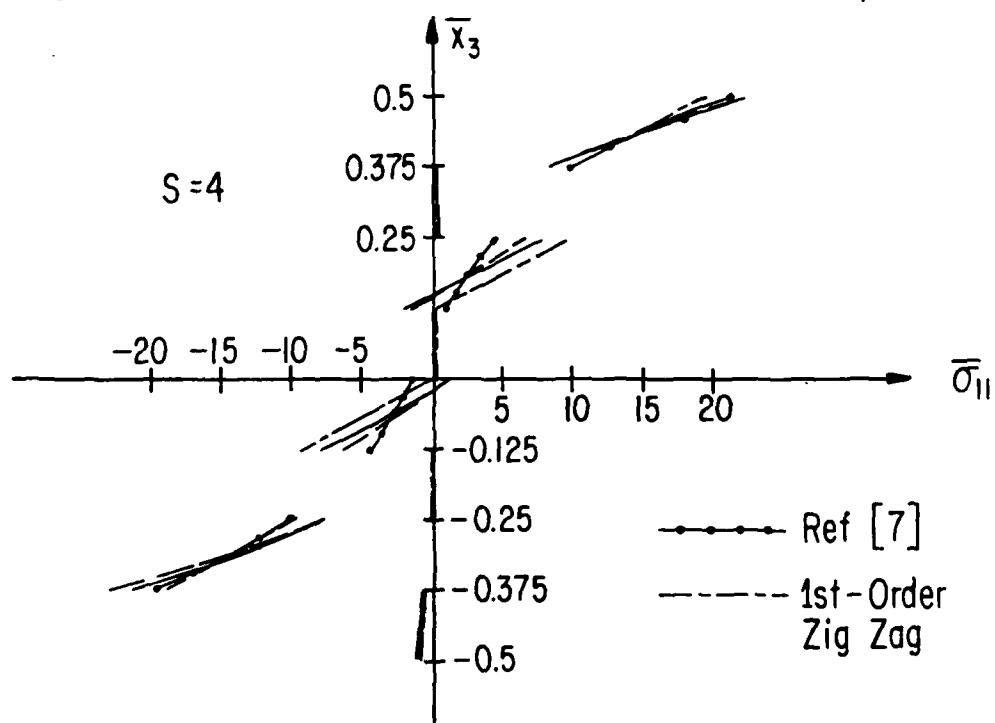


Fig. 9b Thickness variation of normal stress  $\bar{\sigma}_{11}(k)$  of an asymmetric 8-layer cross-ply laminate for  $S=4$ .

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